

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Harry S. Truman Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North Delaware Street area (see continuation sheet)

CITY OR TOWN:
Independence

STATE Missouri	CODE 29	COUNTY: Jackson	CODE 095
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Recorder's Office, Jackson County Courthouse Annex

STREET AND NUMBER:
306 West Kansas Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

Independence Missouri 29

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
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Harry S. Truman

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

2. Boundaries of the Harry S. Truman Historic District

The district is bounded on the south by Lexington Avenue, between Union Street on the west and Pleasant Street on the east.

From the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Union Street the western boundary extends north along Union Street to a paved alley 250 feet north of the intersection of Union Street and Truman Road; thence east along the alley to a point approximately 175 feet west of North Delaware Street, at the juncture with the rear property line of the lots along the western side of North Delaware; thence north along the rear of the Delaware Street lots, or 175 feet west of Delaware Street in the urban renewal area, to the southern boundary of the Truman Library grounds.

From the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Pleasant Street, the eastern boundary of the district extends north along Pleasant Street to the intersection of Pleasant Street and Maple Avenue; thence east along the north side of Maple to the eastern property line of the World War Memorial Building; thence north and west again to Pleasant Street, circumscribing the War Memorial Building; thence continuing north along Pleasant Street to its intersection with Truman Road, and east 25 feet to the paved alley on the north side of Truman Road. North along the alley to Farmer Avenue; thence west along Farmer to its juncture with the rear property lines of the lots along the eastern side of North Delaware, approximately 175 feet east of Delaware Street; thence north along the rear of the Delaware Street lots, or 175 feet east of Delaware Street in the urban renewal area, to the southern boundary of the Truman Library grounds.

The district is bounded on the north by the Truman Library grounds.

DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE <p>The Harry S. Truman Historic District centers about the residence of former President Truman, and forms a corridor along North Delaware Street linking the house with the Truman Library, which adjoins the district on the north. Extending from the library grounds approximately .7 of a mile south to Lexington Avenue, the district also protects the historic character of the neighborhood most closely related to the life of the thirty-third President. The southern portion of the district, around the Truman residence, is extended to incorporate sections of Pleasant Street, Truman Road, and Maple Avenue in order to preserve the environs of the house, and streetscapes as well as individual structures associated with Mr. Truman.</p> <p>While the upper part of the district has been altered by urban redevelopment, that portion below College Avenue largely retains the physical character familiar to Truman during his years in the White House and the career that preceded them. The district is chiefly residential, with a sprinkling of public edifices, and most of the buildings range in date from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Large deciduous shade trees lining the streets and scattered about the ample lawns of the residences still distinguish most of the district.</p> <p>In addition to its national historical importance, the Truman House itself is one of the earlier and architecturally more substantial structures in the area. An asymmetrical, two-and-a-half story frame Victorian dwelling, the house occupies a rectangular lot, approximately 175 by 225 feet in size, on the corner of North Delaware Street and Truman Road. Behind the main house, at the southeast corner of the lot, stands a large frame carriage house now converted into a garage and approached either from a drive off Truman Road or by means of an alley leading to North Delaware Street. The tall iron fence surrounding the Truman property was erected in 1947, at the suggestion of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, to protect the house and grounds from souvenir hunters.¹ The antique-style gas lamp to the left of the entrance walkway beyond the iron gates is of recent vintage.</p> <p>Stylistically, the house is an eclectic mixture of Late Gothic Revival, bracketed, and modified Eastlavian decorative elements. A combination hip-and-gable roof, pierced by tall arched attic dormers, covers the structure. The most notable features of the facade are the porch, with its elaborate wooden jigsaw trim, and the massive, highly-ornamented bay which projects to</p>	
<hr/> <p>¹Harry S. Truman, <u>Mr. Citizen</u> (New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1960), p. 31.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. Description

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the south of the centrally placed front door. Flanking the middle section of the tripartite windows of the bay are narrow sashes filled with colored glass. The balustraded porch extends from the main entrance around the north side of the house. There is a smaller porch, similarly treated, on the south side.

The ground slopes eastward toward the rear of the dwelling, from which projects a low, two-story ell containing the kitchen. A porch, resting on high brick piers and partially screened for use as a summer retreat and dining area, extends along the south side and across the back of this wing. A wooden lattice conceals the area under the porch except at the eastern end, which is left open to facilitate storage beneath.

The broad lawn surrounding the house is dotted with large oaks and informally-planted shrubbery and flowerbeds. From the steps at the foot of the back porch, a walk extends to the driveway leading from Truman Road to the garage.

Precisely when the house was constructed is uncertain. County records reveal that George P. Gates, Mrs. Truman's maternal grandfather, purchased the lot on June 20, 1867. Gates, a founder of the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company in Independence, is said to have built the residence at the time of the purchase. Its architectural style, however, would indicate that the house assumed its present appearance several years later. Mrs. Truman, née Elizabeth Wallace, has lived in the house since about 1903 when, following the death of her father, she and her mother, Mrs. Margaret Gates Wallace, came to live with Mrs. Wallace's parents. In 1924, five years after her daughter's marriage to the future President, Mrs. Wallace acquired the interests of the other Gates heirs in the house, and following her own death in 1952, the dwelling became the property of her daughter and son-in-law, the Trumans.² In 1955, the Trumans refurbished and partially modernized the interior for the sake of convenience. More recently, the polychromatic slate roof which covered the house and front porch has been replaced by asbestos shingles. These are the most significant changes made to the house within the past score of years.

Other buildings in the area have varying degrees of association with the Trumans. To the east of the Truman lot, at 601 and 605 Truman Road, are the unpretentious brick bungalows of Mrs. Truman's late brothers, George and

²Synopsis of records related to the Truman house in the Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Missouri, compiled for the Harry S. Truman Library, 1971.

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7. Description

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Frank Wallace. Across Delaware Street and slightly south of the Truman house, at number 216, lived Mr. Truman's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Noland, and their daughters, the Misses Nellie and Ethel Noland. Miss Ethel Noland, the family genealogist, occupied the house until her death in August of 1971. In her autobiography, Souvenir, Margaret Truman Daniel recalls that during her childhood in the Truman house, most of her close relatives "lived almost within shouting distance."³

Adjoining the Truman property on the south is the Ogden residence from which, writes Mrs. Daniel, a network of strings and wires was strung to the rear upstairs sleeping porch of the Truman house in order that the daughters of the two households could exchange messages.⁴

On the eastern end of the block occupied by the Truman house, at the corner of Truman Road and Pleasant Street, is the site of Central High School, from which both President and Mrs. Truman were graduated. The building burned early in this century, and another school now occupies the site. Across the street, at the corner of Pleasant and Maple Avenue, stands the municipally-owned World War Memorial Building. Erected in 1926 as a civic auditorium dedicated to those from Independence who served in the First World War, the structure has for many years been Mr. Truman's regular voting place, as well as the scene of at least one of the former President's press conferences. Prior to the completion of the Truman Library in 1957, the Presidential papers were stored here for a time.

Diagonally across the street from the War Memorial Building stands the First Presbyterian Church, a well-preserved and little-altered brick Victorian structure dating from 1888, where Mr. Truman attended Sunday School and first saw his future wife. "That is where I met the beautiful blue-eyed golden-haired young lady, Virginia Elizabeth Wallace," Truman recalls in his book, Mr. Citizen. "I sat in front of her, and now and then she used to tap me over the head with a ruler."³

³Margaret Truman, Souvenir (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1956), p. 17.

⁴ibid., p. 30.

⁵Truman, Mr. Citizen, pp. 128-9.

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Along Maple Avenue and the north side of Lexington Avenue, at the southern end of Delaware Street half a block from the Truman residence, the streetscape is composed of unpretentious dwellings, including that of Judge Henry Bundschu, a Republican friend of Truman's,⁶ and the Chrisman School, attended by Margaret Truman, at the corner of Maple Avenue and Union Street. For many years, a pair of three-story brown brick apartment buildings on Maple Avenue, known respectively as "The Maples" and "Maplewood", have marked the southern terminus of North Delaware Street.

The most conspicuous change in the character of the area immediately surrounding the Truman house has been the construction in 1967 of a modern office building by the Church of the Reformed Latter Day Saints at the northwest corner of Delaware Street and Maple Avenue, next to the Noland house. This edifice replaces a late nineteenth-century Romanesque-style Methodist Church and incorporates a portion of the church's much later educational building. In the same block, at 224 North Delaware directly opposite the Truman house, a former residence has been federally acquired as headquarters for the Secret Service unit detailed to watch the Truman house.

Among the substantial middle and upper-middle class dwellings along Delaware Street north of the Truman house are the homes of longtime associates and of families that Truman knew in his youth. These include the imposing Sawyer house, 510 North Delaware, and the Burrus house, at 503 North Delaware. The house at 610 North Delaware marks the site of the home of Mrs. Truman's Wallace forebears, and a great oak at the southwest corner of the lot next to the street survives from the childhood scene recalled by the former President, who lived on nearby Waldo Street between 1895 and 1901. Some new construction has occurred in this block of Delaware, bounded by Farmer and College Avenues. In the one block north of College, most of the older houses have given way to new ones, while the area beyond Nettleton Avenue and south of the U.S. Highway 24 overpass has been cleared by urban renewal officials. Delaware Street runs beneath the overpass and ends at the former Slover Memorial Park, now part of the Truman Library Grounds.

Within a few blocks of the Truman Historic District stand three of the former President's boyhood homes, at 909 West Waldo, 619 South Crysler, and 902 North

6

Jonathan Daniels, The Man of Independence (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1950), p. 122.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1919 - Present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

President Truman's biographer, Jonathan Daniels, has observed that Truman the man matches the sturdy Midwestern character of North Delaware Street and the neighborhood which, more than any other, suggests the life and career of the former Chief Executive.¹ Many of Mr. Truman's childhood memories cluster about the area, and from 1919, shortly before his political career began, until the present, Truman and his wife have made their home at 219 North Delaware. Beginning as a county official, Truman became successively a U.S. Senator, then Vice-President, before entering the White House. His Presidential career itself was laced with reactions and observations formed in the political arena of Independence and surrounding Jackson County. In the eighteen years since his Presidency ended, many American leaders, including Presidents Johnson and Kennedy, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and former Chief Justice Earl Warren, have visited Mr. Truman at his Independence home or at his offices in the nearby Truman Library. Today the flavor of the district is still very much that of Truman's active political life and even of earlier years, when the neighborhood nurtured a future President.

In 1895, when Truman was eleven years old, his family settled only two blocks from North Delaware, at 909 West Waldo. They moved again while Truman was a youth, but he returned frequently to the area to visit friends and relatives, and to pursue his courtship with Bess Wallace. Upon his marriage to her on June 28, 1919, Truman became a permanent resident of North Delaware Street.

Elected to the position of county judge (an administrative rather than a judicial post) in 1922, with the substantial support of his comrades-in-arms of the 129th Field Artillery, Truman began his political ascendancy. Daniels cites the importance of this wartime connection in The Man of Independence, stating that it constituted Truman's first political base.² Truman himself writes that he entered politics "partly as a result of my

¹Daniels, The Man of Independence, pp. 158-9.

² ibid., p. 121

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8. Significance

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war services, at the urging and with the help of my war companions."³ The World War Memorial Building a block from the Truman house is a tangible reminder of this aspect of Truman's life and career.

In 1926, Truman was elected to the more prestigious office of presiding judge of the county court, and in 1934 he became Missouri's junior Senator. Although for the next eighteen years Truman resided chiefly in Washington, he was at his Independence home on June 24, 1950, in the midst of his second Presidential term, when he was informed by telephone of the Communist invasion of South Korea.⁴

Returning to Independence in January 1953, at the end of his Presidency, Truman established a suite of offices first in Kansas City, then later at the Harry S. Truman Library which was dedicated in 1957 as a repository for the Presidential papers. The brisk, early-morning walks he had begun in Washington continued in Independence. For some time after the completion of the library, he arrived at his offices there on foot, up Delaware Street, by eight each morning. Often he spoke to visiting groups of students in the library auditorium. Mr. Truman continues to answer a voluminous correspondence, and in the 1950's he wrote his memoirs amid the setting which has been the physical nucleus of both his personal and his long and influential political life.

³Truman, Mr. Citizen, p. 61

⁴Alfred Steinbert, The Man from Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962), p. 376.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daniels, Jonathan, The Man of Independence. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950.

Hillman, William, Mr. President. New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1952.

Steinberg, Alfred, The Man from Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962.

Truman, Harry S., Memoirs. Two volumes. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1956.

Truman, Harry S., Mr. Citizen. New York: Bernard Geis Associates (distributed by Random House), 1960.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY					O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees		Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
	°	'	"	°		'	"	°	'	"
NW	39°	06'	07"	94°	25'	29"				
NE	39°	06'	07"	94°	25'	21"				
SE	39°	05'	33"	94°	25'	21"				
SW	39°	05'	33"	94°	25'	29"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 45

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert S. Gamble and Frank B. Sarles, Jr.	
ORGANIZATION Division of History, National Park Service	DATE 9/13/71
STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19th Street, N. W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE D.C.
	CODE 001

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Truman, Margaret (with Margaret Cousins), Souvenir: Margaret Truman's Own Story. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1956.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Jackson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Harry S. Truman Historic District			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
See Form 10-300 for boundary description			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Independence			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri		Jackson	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series (Independence, Mo. Quadrangle)			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

TRUMAN, HARRY S, HISTORIC DISTRICT

COUNTY:

Jackson

LOCATION:

Independence, MO

OWNER:

ADDRESS:

Multiple private (see Site File Copy)
See Site File Copy

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

02-23-72

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

01-23-75

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

DATE OF ELIGIBILITY:

DATE OF PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE:

DATE OF ENTRY:

11-11-71

















